

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ADP-00 OMB-01 TAR-02 AGR-20 AID-20

CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11 INR-10 LAB-06 NSAE-00 OIC-04

RSC-01 SIL-01 STR-08 TRSE-00 CIEP-02 CEA-02 ABF-01

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 L-03 NSC-10 PA-03 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-15 RSR-01 /173 W

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FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6229

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: UNGA:AFIN:ECAFE:

SUBJ: RED:ECAFE: GENERAL ASSEMBLY 1974-1975 UN BUDGET

REF: STATE 171220

1. REVIEW OF PROPOSED ECAFE BUDGET CONVINCES US THAT 15.6 PERCENT INCREASE IS JUSTIFIABLE AND INESCAPABLE. MUCH OF INCREASE DUE TO COST OF LIVING INCREASE IN BANGKOK DUE REVALUATIONS OF US DOLLAR, 3.8 PERCENT UPWARD REVALUATION OF BAHT AND REVALUATIONS IN HONG KONG, AUSTRALIA AND INDONESIA.

2. OPERATING BUDGET MUST ALSO BE CONSIDERED IN LIGHT OF EXPANSION OF ECAFE MEMBERSHIP TO THIRTY-NINE COUNTRIES OF WHICH THIRTY-ONE ARE REGIONAL DEVELOPING COUNTRIES DRAWING ON ECAFE SERVICES. OF THESE TEN ARE SOUTH PACIFIC MEMBERS WITHIN CATEGORY OF LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES WHICH REQUIRE PARTICULAR ATTENTION BUT ARE LOCATED AT GREAT DISTANCE FROM BANGKOK HEADQUARTERS. ECAFE RESOLUTION 139 (XXIX) ON USE OF CHINESE AS WORKING LANGUAGE WILL IN COMING YEARS ALSO PLACE SUBSTANTIAL FINANCIAL BURDEN ON ECAFE.

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3. AS INDICATED IN REFTEL ADDITION OF NEW DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENT

AND EXPANSION OF ACTIVITIES OF DIVISION OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE NOT ONLY ADD STAFF AND TRAVEL COSTS BUT ALSO ADD TO SPACE PROBLEMS WHICH REQUIRE RENTAL OF COMMERCIAL OFFICES UNTIL NEW ECAFE BUILDING COMPLETED

IN 1975.

4. ACABQ OBSERVATION REGARDING THIRTY-ONE ECAFE VACACIES OUT OF ONE-HUNDRED SIXTY-ONE PROFESSIONAL POSTS IS BOTH PERTINENT AND TIMELY. EXSEC MARAMIS INHERITED THIS PROBLEM AND HAS ALREADY RECOGNIZED THE USE OF "CONSULTANTS" IN PERMANENT POSITIONS AS ONE OF ADMINISTRATIVE MALPRACTICES REQUIRING RECTIFICATION. HOWEVER, PROBLEM RESULTS PARTLY FROM UN RECRUITMENT FREEZE AND PARTLY FROM REFUSAL OF DEVELOPING MEMBER

COUNTRIES TO RELEASE QUALIFIED PERSONNEL FOR ECAFE SERVICE BECAUSE OF GREATER NEED OF THEIR SERVICES AT HOME. SEE ALSO OUR COMMENTS ON THIS POINT IN BANGKOK 14133 OCTOBER 19, 1971. WE BELIEVE THAT CUTTING VACANT POSITIONS AND INCREASING ALLOTMENT FOR TEMPORARY ASSIGNMENTS WOULD ONLY LETITIMATIZE WHAT WE CONSIDER TO BE WASTEFUL PRACTICE WHICH HAS DEMORALIZING EFFECT ON REGULAR STAFF AND WOULD NOT SAVE MONEY. MARAMIS

HAS INDICATED THAT HE WILL MAKE GREATER RECRUITMENT EFFORT AND IF NECESSARY SEEK NEW YORK AUTHORIZATION FOR MORE FLEXIBLE HIRING POLICIES

FOR PERMANENT POSITIONS.

5. THERE IS ADMITTEDLY STILL TOO MUCH FRIVOLOUS TRAVEL (AS ALSO POINTED

OUT IN OUR 14133). RECENT CASE IN POINT IS TRIP OF T AND C DIVISION CHIEF TO GEORGETOWN, GUIANA, TO ATTEND UNCOMMITTED NATIONS CONFERENCE

6. WE HOPE THAT CURRENT REVIEW OF ECAFE STRUCTURE AND PRODEDURES UNDER RESOLUTION 138 (XXIX) WILL RESULT IN FEWER MEETINGS, A SHARPER FOCUS OF SECRETARIAT ACTIVITIES ON FEWER PROJECTS WITH GREATER DEVELOPMENT IMPACT AND A SUBSTANTIAL REDUCTION IN DOCUMENTATION MARAMIS HAS PROMISED FULL COOPERATION IN THIS EFFORT AND HAS STATED PUBLICLY QUOTE I INTEND TO REVIEW MANNING TABLE OF ECAFE AND PUT IT INTO MORE EQUITABLE AND PROPER PROSPECTIVE AND WILL GEAR IT TO GREATER EFFECTIVENESS UNCLASSIFIED

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AND EFFICIENCY UNQUOTE. WE URGE THAT HIS SINCERE DESIRE TO CORRECT PAST FAILINGS AND IMPROVE CAFE EFFICIENCY NOT BE UNDERCUT BY ELIMINATING VACANT POSITIONS OR BY EXTREME BUDGET REDUCTIONS. UNGER

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